



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Cherokee National Forest
Unaka Ranger District

4900 Asheville Hwy SR70
Greeneville, TN 37743
423-638-4109
FAX: 423-638-6599

File Code: 1950
Date: July 7, 2015

Dear Interested Forest User,

Unaka District Ranger Leslie Morgan is requesting comments on the Paint Creek Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). Based on the Objection Resolution meeting an additional 30 Day Notice and Comment period will be provided. This decision is a result of modifications made to the effects analysis in the Paint Creek EA. The agency proposes to utilize commercial harvest to create early successional forest habitat for wildlife, to improve age class distribution for wildlife habitat diversity and for forest health. Additional treatments proposed include crop tree and midstory treatments to encourage oak and other mast-producing species, thinning stands to reduce competition, prescribed burning, wildlife habitat improvements, and maintaining, creating temporary, decommissioning, and authorizing roads. The project is located approximately 10 miles south of Greeneville, Greene County, TN.

The Paint Creek EA and appendices are available on the Cherokee National Forest web page at: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41477. If you do not have internet access, please let the district office know at the number below as soon as possible. A hard copy of the EA will be provided.

This is the opportunity to comment on the proposed actions, per the *predecisional objection process*, 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B, as published in the Federal Register on March 27, 2013. In accordance with 36 CFR 218.2, written comments should be specific, within the scope of the proposed actions, have a direct relationship to the proposed action(s), and must include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project during the public comment period are eligible to file an objection §218.24(b)(6). For issues to be raised in objections, they must be based on previously submitted timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project and be attributed to the objector. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting written comments regarding the proposed project must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

Comments must be postmarked or received within 30 days beginning the day after publication of the legal notice in the *Greeneville Sun*. Comments should be sent to: Leslie Morgan, Cherokee National Forest, 4900 Asheville Highway, Greeneville, TN 37743; telephone (423) 638-4109; fax (423) 638-6599. Additional information may also be obtained at this address. Oral or hand-delivered comments must be received within our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Comments may be mailed electronically to: Comments-southern-cherokee-nolichucky-unaka@fs.fed.us. Please state "Paint Creek Project" in the subject line when providing electronic comments.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Summer

for

LESLIE MORGAN
District Ranger

